



july 21, 2015

hartford street zc news

Birth and Death SHÖJI

“Because a buddha is in birth and death, there is no birth and death.”


It is also said “Because buddha is bot in birth and death, a buddha is not deluded by birth and death.”

These statements are the essence of the words of the two Zen Masters Jiashan and Dingshan. You should certainly not neglect them, because they are the words of those who have attained the way.

Those who want to be free from birth and death should understand the meaning of those words. If you search for a buddha outside birth and death, it will be like trying to go to the southern country of Yue with your spear heading towards north, or like trying to see the Big Dipper while you are facing the south; you will cause yourself to remain all the more in birth and death and lose the way of emancipation.

Just understand that birth-and death is itself nirvana. There is nothing such as birth and death to be avoided; there is nothing such as nirvana to be sought. Only when you realize this are you free from birth and death.

It is a mistake to suppose that birth turns into death. Birth is a phase that is an entire period of itself, with its own past and future. For this reason, in buddha-dharma birth is understood as no birth. * Death is a phase that is an entire period unto itself, with its own past and future. For this reason, death is understood as no-death.*



HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER
www.hszc.org 415.863.2507

public schedule

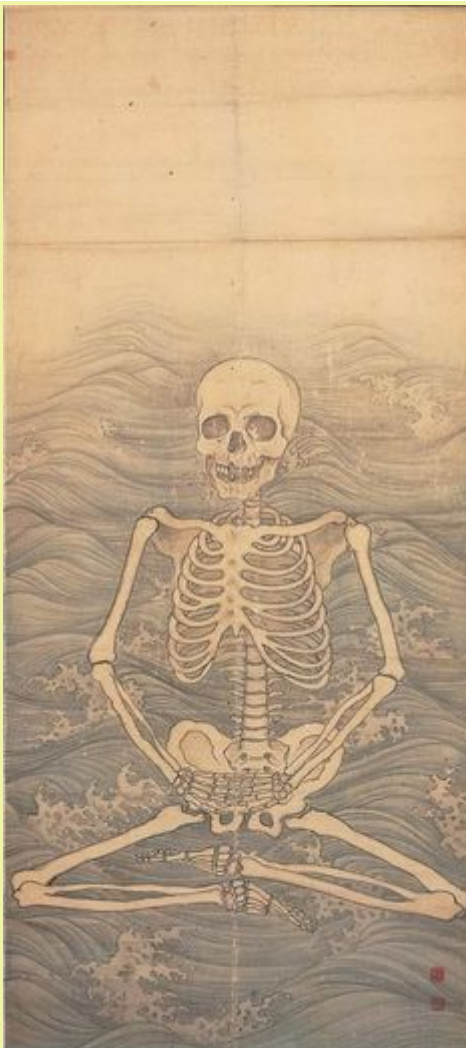
mondays
*7:00 am zazen
*7:40 am morning chanting service
**last monday of each month, no morning schedule*
6:00 pm zazen
6:40 pm evening chanting service

tuesdays - fridays

In birth there is nothing but birth and in death there is nothing but death. Accordingly, when birth comes, face and actualize birth, and when death comes, face and actualize death. Do not avoid them or desire them.

This birth and death is the life of buddha. If you try to exclude it you will lose the life of buddha. If you cling to it, trying to remain in it, you will also lose the life of buddha, and what remains will be the mere form of buddha. Only when you don't dislike birth and death or long for them, do you enter buddha mind. However, do not analyze or speak about it. Just set aside your body and mind, forget about them, and throw them into the house of buddha; then all is done by buddha. When you follow this, you are free from birth and death and become a buddha without effort and calculation. Who then continues to think?

There is a simple way to become a buddha: When you refrain from unwholesome actions, are not attached to birth and death and are compassionate toward sentient beings, respectful to seniors and kind to juniors, not excluding or desiring anything, with no designing thoughts or worries, you will be called a



6:00 am zazen
6:40 am kinhin (walking meditation)
6:50 am zazen
7:20 am chanting service
7:40 am soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm zazen
6:40 pm chanting service

thursdays study hour 7:30pm

saturdays

6:30 am zazen
7:10 am chanting service
7:25 am soji
8:30 am drop-in instruction
9:25 am zazen
10:15 am dharma talk
11:00 am refreshments/social*

** if a ceremony applies it will occur before social time*



buddha. Do not seek anything else.

[Moon in a Dewdrop: Writings of Zen Master Dogen—](#)

[by Eihei Dogen](#) (Author), Kazuaki Tanahashi (Editor, Translator), Robert Aitken (Translator), Reb Anderson (Translator), Ed Brown (Translator), Norman Fischer (Translator), Arnold Kotler (Translator), Daniel Leighton (Translator), Lew Richmond (Translator), David Schneider (Translator), Katherine Thanas (Translator), Brian Unger (Translator), Mel Weitsman (Translator), Dan Welch (Translator), Philip Whalen (Translator)



upcoming events:

[dharma talks](#) @10:15am saturdays

[hszc speakers](#)

[Myō Lahey](#) - aug 1, 8, 22, 29

[Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock](#) - jul 25

[guest speakers](#)

[Dale Borqlum](#) - aug 15; [Anshi Daiqi, Zachary Smith](#) - sept 19; [Kai Ji, Jeffrey Schneider](#) - Oct 3; [Ryuko, Laura Burges](#) - oct 17; [Fugan, Eugene Bush](#) - nov 14; [Ryuei, Michael McCormick](#) - dec 12

[full moon ceremony](#) - saturday, aug 1 @11am - full sturgeon moon. the fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this Moon, since sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month. a few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because, as the Moon rises, it appears reddish through any sultry haze. it was also called the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon

study hour - thursdays @7:30pm: the Vimalakīrti Sūtra. we can share books for anyone who wants to join in, or feel free to purchase a copy and join us (many are very low cost online, we focus on [Dr Thurman's version](#)).

closure & schedule changes -

first monday of each month - no morning program, only evening [schedule](#)



Please help support our Temple, Dharma Study, Resident Student Program, Our Practice Schedule, and the Space & Programs offered to the Public.

Donations are tax deductible
we are a 501-C 3 non-profit

founder monthly memorials - [Issan's](#) is the 6th of each month and [Philip's](#) is the 26th (or closest dates to these if can't be on that day) evenings at 6:40pm or Saturday mornings

practice discussions at hszc are available with both Rev. Myo Lahey & Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock. please call us, approach them directly, or email: hszc108@yahoo.com to request to schedule time.

Unfortunate news *update* - Our donation (dana) box was stolen from our zendo at the end of June. We have replaced it with a Japanese built early 20th century "pure money" dana box which will be installed soon!



FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF GINSBERG'S DEATH
San Francisco 1998 @ HSZC - Zenshin, Philip Whalen, hszc's 3rd abbot

words from our Abbot: Rev. Myō Lahey

We have our three jewels: Buddha, Dharma, Sangha. During our full moon ceremony the next to the last thing we do is take refuge. The kokyo (cantor) sings on behalf of everyone, "I take refuge in Buddha," and then everyone responds, "before all beings, immersing body and mind, deeply in the way awakening true mind." Then the kokyo sings, "I take refuge in Dharma," and everyone responds, "before all beings, entering deeply the merciful ocean of

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Buddha's way." Then finally, "I take refuge in Sangha," and everyone responds, "before all beings, brining harmony to everyone free from hindrance."

There are three aspects of practice which are brought forth in this context of taking refuge. There is immersing, entering and brining harmony. First we immerse ourselves, body and mind in Buddha's way. How you do that depends entirely on karmic circumstances. Some people may for a couple years just read about Buddhism. For a couple years, I just read about Buddhism, and I didn't know there was anything else to do, I just thought that was how you did it. Then in my senior year in Catholic boarding school, I just happened to be a fifteen-minute drive from Suzuki-Roshi's Zazenkai group in Los Altos. When I heard about that, I thought I would go sit with them.

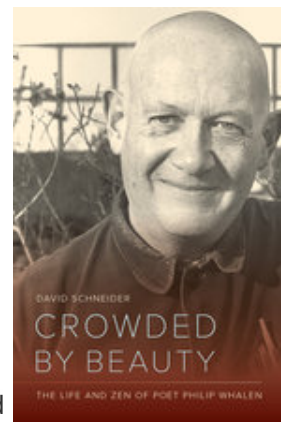
This was another kind of immersing from reading to cultivating the body-mind in seated meditation. Then some people do recitations. Some people focus their body-mind energy sometimes on a being like Amitābha Buddha. Some people devote themselves to monastic discipline through the Vinaya. There are tantric practices and practices of good works. These are all ways of immersing the body-mind. This is so, so that against the obscuring impulse of our karma, we can allow Buddha's teaching to seek in, so that we recognize that although it is entering in, it is reflecting the truth of what's already there....

[2006-06-17 The practice of immersing, entering, and bringing harmony](#)

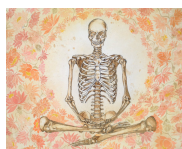
sangha news!

a new book is in release in late july 2015 telling the story of the life of Zenshin, [Philip Whalen](#) (hszc's 3rd abbot) by the same author as [Issan's](#) (hszc's 1st abbot) life story, as told by [David Schneider](#)

this book draws from Whalen's journals and personal correspondence—particularly with Ginsberg, Kerouac, Snyder, Kyger, Welch, and McClure —David Schneider shows how deeply bonded these intimates were, supporting one another in their art and their spiritual paths. Schneider, himself an ordained



priest, provides an insider's view of Whalen's struggles and breakthroughs in his thirty years as a zen monk.



where's Rin?

On her walk across the U.S. to raise awareness of Environmental Issues...

[Click here to find out!](#)

hszc history - may 1993 hszc newsletter

ABOUT HARTFORD STREET ZEN CENTER

HSZC is a Zen Temple, the temple name of which is Issanji ("One Mountain Temple") in honor of its founder, Issan Dorsey Roshi, a Zen priest and gay man who started the center so that lesbians and gay men would have a comfortable place to practice Zen Buddhism. The center is independent and open to all people of all orientations and affiliations as a place to meditate and practice together. Hartford Street Zen Center operates in tandem with the Maitri Hospice, a home-like AIDS hospice established by Issan before his own death from AIDS in 1990. Issanji has a traditional Zendo (meditation hall), a well-stocked Buddhist library, a large garden, a bulletin board that serves as a clearing house for many Buddhist and other events, a living room area for tea and socializing and a kitchen. Because the kitchen is used primarily for the hospice, Issanji is not vegetarian, as are most Zen temples. There is one priest in residence, Abbott Zenshin (Philip) Whalen. Other priests and laypeople take part in the life of the temple and the hospice. We welcome anyone who would like to come by and see the temple or learn Zazen (Zen meditation). Please call the number on this newsletter and let Jerome know if you want to come by for the introduction session given on Mondays at 5 pm, or set up an appointment.

ISSANJI AND MAITRI HOSPICE SEPARATE AMICABLY

The February 26th board meeting, open to all members, introduced the membership to some interesting developments. HSZC/Maitri were on the verge of obtaining a weighty grant that would allow us to buy outright the house at 61 Hartford St. - the house that now includes the better part of Maitri Hospice. This purchase would provide not only additional peace of mind, but would free up a good part of the income we now spend on rent.

There was one hitch, however: the grant could not be awarded to a religious organization. Since Maitri has never been overtly "religious" but exists for the benefit of its multid denominational and multicultural residents, officially "divesting" Maitri from the control of HSZC did not seem like such a great leap.

There were several ways legally to separate the two organizations so that they could run parallel but interrelated lives. These various ways were explained to the membership in layperson's terms by our pro bono attorney, Bill Aselyne, at the February 26th sangha meeting. The outcome of the meeting was that the membership unanimously agreed that Maitri should separate from HSZC and become a non-religious "public benefit corporation." HSZC/Issanji would remain a religious organization.

The two organizations will have separate boards, with Maitri's board drawing from the various resources of the community at large, and the smaller HSZC board drawn mainly from the sangha. The Abbot will remain the Head of the HSZC board and the "big cheese" (as he likes to say) of the whole operation. The HSZC board will oversee the Maitri board in any major decisions, and the organizations will have separate by-laws and charters enumerating their purposes.

HIV meditation group; weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!
 thursdays & fridays
 10:30am zazen
 11:00am garden socializing

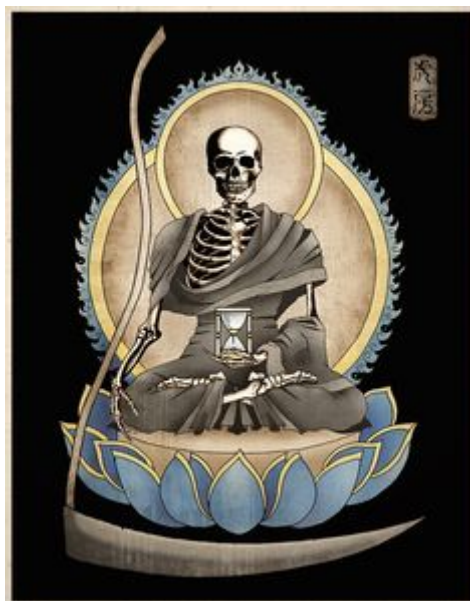
meditation in recovery; weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction
 fridays, 7:30pm - 9pm

(women only) meditation in recovery; monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction
 first thurs, 7:15pm -8:45pm

(men only) meditation in recovery; a monthly meeting for men in recovery from addiction
 3rd thurs of every month, 7:30pm-8:30pm

board of director meetings; you're invited to attend & observe!
 second weds of each month, 7:30pm

*please contact us for rental space & events, ceremonies performed by a zen priest
 - weddings, memorials, coming of age & baby naming events -*



find other sf bay area lgbtqqi community events [here](#) - or - [here](#)

national, worldwide & other, holidays [here](#) (*warning* some are pretty silly)

**Abbot, hartford street zen center --
 - Reverend Myō Lahey ---**

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 415.863.2507**

*please submit stories, reflections,
 personal news, artwork &
 photography
 for future newsletters to
 KeiDo at*



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tetsugen.keido@yahoo.com

*may this newsletter find you well
& equanimous! _/_*

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